



## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Atty.'s Docket: FUKUNAGA=5

In re Application of:

Akira FUKUNAGA et al

I.A. Appln. No. PCT/JP00/08418

I.A. Filing Date: 11/29/2000

Appln. No. 09/890,330

Nationalized: 7/30/2001

For: METHOD OF AND APPARATUS

FOR FORMING THIN METAL...

PCT BRANCH

Examiner:

Washington, D.C.

September 11, 2001

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Honorable Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED

OCT 1 2001

Sir:

TC 1700

Prior to examination on the merits of the present application, please amend as follows to eliminate improperly multiple dependent claims:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please rewrite the following claims in amended form as follows (attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached version is captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made"):

7. (Amended) A method of forming a thin metal film according to claim 1, wherein said energy beam comprises an